

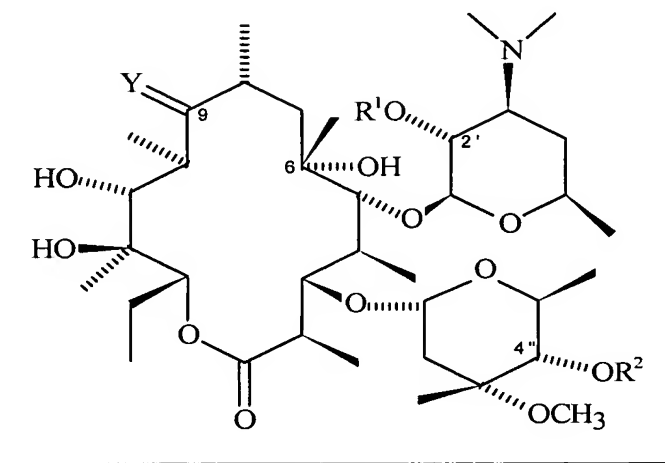
court also found provisionally that certain claims in a patent for clarithromycin oxime may be invalid.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

8. (Amended) An improved process for preparing 6-O-methylerythromycin A comprising:

(a) reacting a compound of the formula



wherein:

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently hydrogen or a hydroxy-protecting group, except that R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> may not both be hydrogen simultaneously; and

Y is selected from the group consisting of:

a) oxygen,

b) an oxime having the formula N-O-R<sup>3</sup>, wherein R<sup>3</sup> is selected from the group consisting of:

hydrogen,

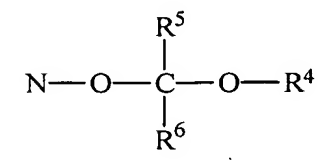
a loweralkenyl group,

an aryl(loweralkyl) group, or

a substituted aryl(loweralkyl) group;

and

c) an oxime having the formula:



wherein

R<sup>4</sup> is

a loweralkyl group,

a cycloalkyl group,

a phenyl group,

an aryl(loweralkyl) group,

or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> or R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> and the atoms to which they are attached are taken together form a 5- to 7-membered ring containing one oxygen atom;

R<sup>5</sup> is

a loweralkyl group,

a loweralkoxymethyl group,

or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> and the atoms to which they are attached are taken together form a 5- to 7-membered ring containing one oxygen atom,

or R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>6</sup> and the atoms to which they are attached are taken together form a 5- to 7-membered cycloalkyl group;

and

R<sup>6</sup> is